

that it is the man behind the gun that counts; so, too, in life-saving, the general opinion seems to be that it is the man behind the sanatorium that counts more than climate, location, or anything else. In this country the question of State sanatoria for the tuberculous poor is a comparatively new one and a few such institutions have been in existence for a short time. Yet even in this short time, so it is pretty noisily rumored, scandal and graft have crept in. This is almost certain to be the case if such institutions are open to political manipulation. A prominent senator of the United States once said to a member of our profession, "The physicians of this country can secure any legislation they want, *if they only agree upon exactly what they want.*" Let us first be very careful to agree upon exactly what is wanted, and then proceed to secure it. Think the matter over carefully and be prepared to express your views.

During the past few months the JOURNAL has devoted considerable space to editorial discussion of the advertising question and to occasional criticism of the A. M. A., or rather of its Trustees, in connection with that important subject. It is possible that at times this may be a little monotonous to some of our readers; at times it is somewhat tiresome even to the Publication Committee. But we must crave your indulgence yet a little while. An official of the American Medical Association, who has gone over the ground very carefully, said to a member of the Committee; "You are unquestionably right, and you are doing the only thing that can possibly bring results; you are constantly hammering. Keep it up, for if you stop and the subject is dropped, it will sink into oblivion. Keep hammering and you will see that the question will have to be taken up and settled right." For that reason we shall "keep hammering." A careful review of what has been published discloses nothing that is not well within the truth; we have no word to retract or to modify in our criticism of the mal-administration, ethically speaking, of the A. M. A. Indeed, the utterances of the JOURNAL have been milder, if anything, than the facts warranted; there is documentary evidence which would support it in publishing much more direct and unpleasant statements. But your Committee desires to publish rather less than more of the unpleasant truth, than is absolutely necessary.

There seems reason to believe that some of the weaker minded and highly hysterical citizens of California will endeavor to have a bill introduced into the legislature repealing the compulsory vaccination act. This class of pestiferous idiot is so microcephalic that it is practically impossible to get sense into his head; he must therefore be regarded as beyond the sphere of useful reason and our efforts to prevent his

bringing disaster upon California must be thwarted by direct appeal to the legislators themselves. Practically every county society in the State has passed resolutions objecting to the repeal of this wise law. It would be an excellent thing for individual members to write to the legislators and express their views on this subject, remembering that it is impossible to bring too much influence to bear. It is safe to say that the repeal of the law would, in the course of time, cost the State of California millions of dollars, to say nothing of the death of many innocent persons. If the pest could be so controlled as to exercise only a selective affinity for those who oppose vaccination, it might be well to encourage it and thus be of practical aid to the fool-killer. As we cannot help in that way, the best we can do is to keep both eyes wide open, and at least one of them fixed on the legislature.

Your attention is respectfully called to the peculiar and particularly significant wording of a portion of a letter printed in the last number of the JOURNAL. "If **FORCED TO DO RIGHT.** you can . . . force the Trustees of the A. M. A. to adopt a policy of ethical decency in the conduct of the Association *Journal*, etc." Think of it! If our State Society can—what? Compel, merely by printing a little of the truth—for we have by no means said all that could be said—compel a body of such honorable men as compose the Board of Trustees of the American Medical Association to do—what? Anything wrong or dishonorable? No, just the opposite. Think of it. Let it sink into your mind and realize just what that means. Think that such men as Drs. Happel, Grant, Marvel, Montgomery, Johnson, Wright, Welch, Porter, and Harris, our servants to whom we have delegated the conduct of the Association and its *Journal*, must be forced to do the right thing; that a component society must fight to compel these gentlemen to do only their plain duty. Why, one would imagine that wild horses or the torture of the sharpened stake could not induce them to do otherwise. It is impossible to believe that these gentlemen would, as individuals, dream of doing the things that they are doing as a board. Are they crazed with the gold lust? Are they indifferent to the result that must follow upon the course they are leading the *Journal of the American Medical Association*? Are they blind to the fact that they are making the Principles of Medical Ethics promulgated by the American Medical Association a ludicrous thing? Has any one of these gentlemen the courage to come out and say that he believes for one instant that he would not be "promoting the use of a secret remedy," if he endorsed the following statement taken from the advertising pages of the *Journal* whose business it is his to guide and guard: "Destroy the gonococcus by internal medication . . . the perfect genito-urinary disinfectant. Benolgur cap-